

Photovoltaic Pioneer, Bill Yerkes, Charts New Course for Solar as CTO of Solaicx

Los Gatos, Calif. – August 5, 2003 – For the past thirty years, Bill Yerkes has been committed to one goal: making photovoltaic (PV) cells commercially viable. Known throughout the solar and space industries for his innovations in the design and manufacturing of PV cells, Yerkes has steered industry giants, including ARCO Solar, Spectrolab and Boeing towards achieving this goal. Today he begins his new role as Chief Technology Officer of Solaicx, a developer and manufacturer of crystalline silicon PV material, and will aid Solaicx in its quest to make solar a cost-competitor to non-renewable fuels.

Yerkes and Solaicx plan to capitalize on the new trend of high performance, high-efficiency silicon solar cells via Solaicx's new PV manufacturing processes and more efficient equipment. While competitors are forced to rely on re-manufactured semiconductor equipment to fabricate their wafers, Solaicx uses its new ultra-clean proprietary furnace technology process, specifically designed to reduce wafer costs for solar manufacturers by 75 percent.

"I've watched the solar industry move from its adolescent phase in the seventies into what I think of as its more grown-up period," said Bill Yerkes, CTO of Solaicx. " Now, what was once thought of as somewhat romantic, solar energy has become a billion dollar commodity business. The question is who can provide the most efficient manufacturing process, and Solaicx's approach represents the future for PV technology."

Over the course of his career, Yerkes was responsible at Spectrolab, a Division of Textron for developing the solar array left behind on the moon by Apollo 11,

pulse solar simulators and xenon "Night Sun" searchlights for helicopters. After Spectrolab, Yerkes founded what became ARCO Solar. Within six years Bill grew the company into the largest photovoltaic manufacturer in the world," said Robert Ford, CEO of Solaicx. "A leader and a veteran of the solar energy industry, Bill knows what it takes to propel solar electricity from a sound environmental choice to a profitable business."

About Solaicx

Based in Los Gatos, California, Solaicx is a developer and implementer of a new manufacturing technology. The company will make low-cost, high-efficiency silicon photovoltaic (PV) wafers. Solaicx's manufacturing technology is designed to reduce the cost of silicon wafers by 75 percent. Silicon wafers currently represent half of the cost of high production solar cells in a multi-Billion dollar business.

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